

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9-11, 20, 22, 24, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 3,169,677 to Focht ("Focht").

Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Focht in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,141,871 ("Koukal").

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,831,618 to Soffer et al. ("Soffer") in view of Focht.

Claims 3-6, 12-19, 21, and 25-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended to further recite that the valve housing is not defined by a dip tube. Focht does not disclose nor suggest a valve having a housing containing a shutter member therein, where the dip tube is not part of the housing. Thus Focht has no bearing on the patentability of any of the pending claims.

Similarly, and without addressing the combinability of Focht with Koukal or with Soffer, such combinations do not render any of the thusly rejected claims unpatentable, at least in part because of the deficiency of the Focht disclosure, as outlined above. Neither Koukal nor Soffer remedy this deficiency because neither reference discloses or suggests a valve housing containing a shutter member therein, where the dip tube is not part of the housing.

In view of the amendment to claims 1 and 30, claim 24 has been canceled.

Newly submitted independent claim 31 is believed to be

patentable over the art or record.

Newly submitted independent claims 32-35 are combinations of unamended claim 1 with dependent claims 3, 4, 12 and 21 respectively, which have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Thus these claims are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Konstantin A. Caploon
Registration No.: 51,527
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

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